

Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
27 April 1999 6:30 p.m.
South San Antonio High School

Members/Alternates Present:

Public Members:

Brig. Gen. Robert M. Murdock
RAB Installation Co-Chair
Mr. Edward Weinstein
SAWS
Mr. Gordon Banner
TNRCC
Ms. Laura Stankosky
EPA
Mr. John A. Jacobi
TDH
Mr. Sam Sanchez
Metropolitan Health District
Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Jr.
BMWWD
Mr. Pat McCullough

Community Members:

Dr. Gene Lené
RAB Community Co-Chair
Mr. Sam Murrah
Mrs. Dominga Adames
Mr. Mark Puffer
Mr. Carl Mixon
Mr. Paul Roberson
Greater Kelly Development Corp.
Mr. Armando Quintanilla
Mr. George Rice
Ms. Tanya Huerta
Mrs. Yolanda Johnson
Ms. Annalisa Peace
Mr. Juan Solis, Sr.
Mr. Allan Hagelthorn
Mr. Kent Iglesais

Members Absent Without Alternate:

Mr. Paul Person

Item I: Call to Order

Brig. Gen. Robert M. Murdock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item II: Administrative Topics

- A. RAB members introduced themselves.
- B. Review of Action Items

- 1. BGen. Murdock opened discussion on action items from the last meeting. He referred members to their materials packet and addressed the following items individually.
 - a. Item 1: BGen. Murdock wrote a letter to former community co-chair Mr. Damian Sandoval, thanking him for his service to the RAB.
 - b. Item 3: BGen. Murdock said executive summaries will be provided for all technical documents.
 - c. Item 4: The web page is up. Executive summaries for technical documents will be available on the web page.
 - d. Item 6: A list of lease-back properties is provided in the materials packet.
 - e. Items 9 and 10: Information provided in the materials packet as requested.
- 2. Discussion
 - a. Ms. Tanya Huerta asked about Item 5. She asked if there problems with the Base Closure Team. If so, will they affect how the RAB operates?

- (1). Mr. William Ryan, Kelly AFB EM, speaking for the BCT, said the BCT is undergoing a self-examination and improvement process. This involves identifying problems and finding solutions to those problems. The information in the BCT minutes is a list of the problems identified during a brainstorming session. He said in future BCT meetings, solutions to these problems will be discussed.
- b. Mr. Armando Quintanilla asked if having a RAB member present at the meeting would make the problems worse.
 - (1). Mr. Ryan responded that the issue had not been considered by the BCT. Mr. Quintanilla also commented that the BCT's mission statement was identical to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) mission statement. He said the BCT's mission statement should be to develop and implement the base closure plan.
 - (2). Ms. Laura Stankosky, EPA Representative, clarified that EPA does not have a mission statement, but acts according to laws and regulations. *(Note per 20 July 99 RAB: EPA does in fact have a mission statement)*
- c. In regards to Item 2, Mr. George Rice said he appreciated the meeting he had with Air Force officials to clarify the misunderstandings regarding the Edwards Aquifer issue. He then asked if the RAB will be provided all materials used and given out at BCT meetings.
 - (1). Mary Kelly, Kelly AFB Legal Office, said the RAB will be given draft final and final documents, but not draft documents.
 - (2). Mr. Rice said he feels like the RAB is being cut out of a very important part of the decision-making process.
- d. Ms. Huerta said some BCTs allow the RAB community co-chair to participate. She asked if the BCT would consider that, even if the person were to be only an observer.
 - (1). Mr. Gordon Banner, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission representative, said the issue has been discussed previously and the BCT has decided the public, including the RAB, would not participate in the BCT. As far as the BCT is concerned, the issue is closed.
 - (2). Ms. Huerta stated this gives the perception of secrecy. She said that is inappropriate for a taxpayer-funded entity, like the BCT. Ms. Kelly clarified that BCT is not subject to the Texas Public Information Act, or any other law that would require the meeting to be open to the public.
 - (3). BGen. Murdock said he would put the issue before the BCT again for consideration.

C. Review of Minutes

1. The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved with one change: Mr. Allan Hagelthorn was not listed as being present the meeting.

Item III: Community Comments

- A. Dr. Gene Lené opened the floor for community statements. No community members made statements.

Item IV: Public Involvement Opportunities

- A. Mr. Dick Walters, Kelly AFB Public Affairs, was scheduled to give a community involvement update, but was ill and unable to attend the meeting. In his place, Maj. Tom deVenoge briefly reviewed the presentation. (See attached slides.)
- B. Discussion
 - 1. Mr. Quintanilla congratulated the base on using horizontal drilling. He said that minimizes impact to the community. He asked when the base was going to begin cleaning up off base at Site S-4 and Zone 4.
 - a. Maj. deVenoge said the cleanup plan (Corrective Measures Study Addendum) for Site S-4 will be available this summer and Zone 4 will be further down the road (2001 or 2002).
 - 2. Mr. Quintanilla asked about the status of the interim action at Site S-8.
 - a. Maj. deVenoge said the Technical Review Subcommittee has the soil closure plan for review .
 - 3. Mr. Rice complimented the base on the new website. He asked when it would be complete.
 - a. Maj. deVenoge said the remainder of the site should be completed by the end of May. (Web address is “<http://empub.kelly.af.mil>”)
 - 4. In regards to the video shown on cable television, it was clarified that the video is being shown on Paragon Cable’s public access channel (21).
 - 5. In regards to the upcoming public meeting about Site S-1, Ms. Huerta said some explanation needs to be given to the public as to why the workers are required to wear protective clothing.

Item V: Kelly’s Top Five Environmental Priorities

- A. BGen. Murdock gave a brief presentation on Kelly AFB’s top five environmental priorities. (See attached slide.) He asked for RAB member feedback.
- B. Discussion
 - 1. Mr. John Jacobi, Texas Department of Health Representative, said It is logical and makes a lot of sense. He would like to see some consideration for economic impact to off-base property should be addressed.
 - 2. Mr. Carl Mixon said more effort should be make the technical language more understandable.
 - 3. Ms. Yolanda Johnson said there needs to be one central point-of-contact to address problems.
 - 4. Mr. Paul Roberson said the list is a good start. Off-base contamination should be addressed specifically.
 - 5. Ms. Laura Stankosky said the EPA concurs
 - 6. Mr. Hagelthorn said the list is a good start, but a long way from being complete. He said Community Relations is the program’s weakest link and should be addressed.
 - 7. Mr. Quintanilla said this is a good start, but not exactly what he asked for. He wants to see a site-by-site prioritization, based on relative risk.
 - 8. Mr. Sam Sanchez: said it is a good list to use as guidance that allows you to identify what sites should go to the top of the list.

9. Mr. Rice said although interim actions are a good idea and should be used off-base. He would also like to see off-base cleanups receive the highest priority. He would also like to see RAB members have more access to documents.
 10. Mr. Juan Solis wanted to see a Zone-by-Zone cleanup schedule, with completion dates. He was told the schedule is being developed and will be distributed at the next TRS meeting.
 11. Ms. Dominga Adames said the Air Force is not protecting human health. If they were, they would have told her about the contamination under her house, and she could have made a better decision whether or not to live there and put her health at risk. She said the Air Force is not protecting her and her neighbors.
 12. Ms. Annalisa Peace said she has seen a lot of improvement over the last couple of years. She said she would like to see more community input into the documents. She would also like to see more work with the two Spanish-speaking stations.(TV)
 13. Ms. Huerta wants to see more information on all the committees involved in the cleanup effort and how they are tied together. She would like to know what laws govern each of these committees. She asked that information be provided in more simplistic language. She asked for information on drinking water standards.
- C. BGen. Murdock said a copy of the priorities, along with a section for written comments, will be sent out to each RAB member with a self-addressed envelope. He asked RAB members to write their comments down and return them so they can be considered.

Item VI: Break

A short break was taken.

Item VII: ATSDR Update

A. Report Status

1. Dr. David Fowler, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, gave an update on the ongoing Public Health Assessment (PHA) for Kelly AFB. He said the delays in releasing the study are due to several factors: however, a partial release of the PHA will be made in late June/early July. Preceding the release will be an extensive public education program for area health care professionals and the community. He said work will continue on an assessment of past air emissions. This effort will include a first-of-its-kind computer modeling of past air emissions. The report on this portion of the assessment will be released later as an addendum. Also to be released later is a report on East Kelly and a drinking water consult. These should be released by the end of the year.
 - a. Ms. Huerta said she is concerned at the delay of releasing the PHA. She said that valuable time is being wasted, during which people at risk could be helped.
 - b. Dr. Fowler said that ATSDR has already issued a statement saying that there are no immediate acute risks from the contamination and no one is in immediate danger.
 - c. Ms. Adames asked how long the Air Force held the draft report before returning it to ATSDR. Dr. Fowler said the Air Force had 3 weeks to respond to comments, and did so.

B. Health Education

1. Cheryl Ranger, who will head up the Health Education Workshops, said her program gives health care professionals experience in dealing with and understanding environmental health issues. She said physicians and nurses receive little or no education regarding environmental health. Her courses will help them understand the issues involved, which will help them better understand and interpret the PHA.
2. She said three workshops will be held. Anyone can attend any of the workshops. Continuing education credits will be given to attendees.
3. Mr. Sanchez, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District representative, said this is a step-by-step program designed to help people understand public health issues, not just for Kelly AFB, but for all of San Antonio. He said his organization is working closely with ATSDR and fully supports this effort. He said he has already met with the South San School District, which has enthusiastically supported this effort for all of its school nurses. He plans to contact Edgewood and Harlandale School Districts.

Item VIII: Subcommittee Reports

A. Technical Subcommittee (TRS) Report

1. Dr. Lené presented the TRS report. (See attached slides) They have reviewed the Zone 4 Decision Document, Site S-1 Focus Feasibility Study: and the ICM Building 258 Work Plan. He said they are getting a lot of good information and encouraged RAB members to attend the TRS meetings.
2. Dr. Lené said they are working on a mission statement to help them stay focused. (See attached)
3. Mr. Patrick Lynch was introduced as the RAB's consultant through the TAPP Grant program. Mr. Lynch was hired to do an assessment of the Base Wide Remediation Assessment and to review the data collected to see if there were in gaps. The draft report will be completed on May 17. Mr. Lynch will make an oral presentation to the TRS on June 8. Questions and suggestions will be incorporated and the final plan will be presented at the July RAB meeting.
4. The next meeting is set for May 11 at Winston Elementary School. He said the TRS will be working on the TAPP Grant application for next year.

Item IX: Community Comments

- A. The floor was opened for community statements. No community members made statements.

Item X: New Business

- A. Ms. Stankosky announced a proposal she has made to EPA headquarters for a contractor funding that would allow the RAB to select wells and/or soil points for sampling. She said the contractor funding would be in the neighborhood of \$200,000, which will allow 20-30 wells to be sampled.
- B. Discussion
 1. Mr. Rice said this sounds like a great idea and supported the proposal.
 2. Mr. Mixon was concerned this was a lot of money to spend on something that is already done by Kelly AFB.
 3. Mr. Rice said there are soil Kelly AFB refuses to sample that he would like to have sampled. Ms. Peace agreed, saying there are soil sampling issues that this contractor funding could help resolve.

4. The RAB voted unanimously to give the TRS the authority to select the sampling locations.
- C. Mr. Rice asked for an explanation of the recent issues between the Base Conversion Agency and the Greater Kelly Development Corporation (GKDC) regarding contaminated soil.
1. Mr. Roberson, GKDC representative, offered his explanation of events. He said a major upgrade project at the ramp unearthed contaminated soil. According to regulations, this soil required sampling and disposal, both which cost money. GKDC believes that since the contamination belongs to the Air Force, the Air Force should pay for the sampling and disposal costs. He said, some compromise has been made and the Air Force has agreed to pay for some of the costs. A final decision regarding the remainder of the costs has not yet been made.
 2. Mr. Pat McCullough, BCA Representative, said the Air Force accepts responsibility for the contamination and is committed to cleaning up to regulatory standards. He said the soil in question did not require cleanup. However, when it was disturbed, it became hazardous waste and required sampling and disposal. BCA's position is that the soil would not have required clean up if it had been left alone. He said a decision by the Secretary of the Air Force is pending and contrary to media reports has not been made.
 - a. Mr. Rice asked if this had occurred off base, who would pay. Mr. McCullough said it's not a simple question and he doesn't know the answer. He restated the Air Force's commitment to clean up all off-base contamination it has caused to the appropriate regulatory standards.

Item XI: Summary and Closing

- A. Agenda Items for the Next RAB Meeting
1. Report from ATSDR on the PHA release
 2. Environmental Priorities
 3. Update from GKDC on redevelopment effort
 4. Community Relations Plan
 5. Kelly AFB's policy on access to documents
 6. Status of the clean-up systems
 7. TAPP Contractor Presentation
- B. Action Items for the next RAB Meeting

| ITEM | REQUESTOR | REQUEST |
|------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Ms. Huerta | That BCT reconsider allowing a RAB member attend the BCT meetings. |
| 2 | Mr. Rice | Explain what materials The BCT doesn't want to provide and the reasons for not providing. |
| 3 | Mr. Quintanilla Ms. Huerta | Report on San Antonio River |

- C. The next RAB meeting will be held July 20, at St John Berchman School.(Note: Due to scheduling considerations the meeting will be held at Kennedy High School at 1922 S. Gen. McMullen)
- D. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Motions/Resolutions

Motions

1. Motion was made to approve the January 19, 1999 RAB minutes as corrected.
 - Passed unanimously
2. Motion was made to allow the TRS to select sites to be sampled by the EPA contractor.
 - Passed unanimously.

Attachments (provided at the meeting to all RAB members).

1. Kelly AFB Restoration Advisory Board Materials Package
 - April 27, 1999 RAB Meeting
2. Public Involvement Opportunities Briefing Slides
3. Kelly AFB Environmental Priorities